

Merchants to Discuss Parking Areas Tomorrow

Phone

FA 8-4000

Published Monday and Thursday - Entered as second class matter Jan. 30, 1914, at postoffice, Torrance, California, under Act of March 3, 1879.

FIRST - In Circulation - In Readership - In Advertising

TORRANCE HERALD

TORRANCE'S ONLY COMPLETE NEWSPAPER - WITH OFFICE AND PLANT AT 1619 GRAMERCY AVE., TORRANCE

MONDAY

41st Year - No. 77

10¢ per copy

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1955

CIRCULATION OFFICE FA 8-4004

12

12 PAGES

COMMISSION POSTPONES DECISION ON REZONING CARSON STREET PROPERTY

Parking Areas To Be Studied Over Breakfast

Creation of an off-street parking assessment district to provide parking facilities for the downtown retail district will be the subject for discussion at the Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting tomorrow morning at the YWCA building.

Merchants, property owners, and others interested in the formation of such a district have been given special invitations to attend the breakfast, according to Chamber of Commerce Manager Tom Watson.

Progress Report Due
On hand to present the progress made on formation of such an assessment district will be City Manager George Stevens, City Attorney James Hall, and other city officials, according to Chairman A. E. Thompson, who will preside at the meeting.

A special map outlining the proposed district and showing the parking areas under consideration will be presented at the meeting, Thompson said. Many of the maps have been distributed to interested parties already.

Committee to Report
Also scheduled to participate in tomorrow's 7:30 a.m. meeting is the Chamber's parking committee composed of Chairman Dean L. Sears, W. A. Folger, Arthur O. Owsa, C. T. Rippey, another member of the committee, is out of town.

City Reports Polio Victim

Three cases of polio, one of them in Torrance, struck an otherwise healthy Torrance health district during the week ending Sept. 17, according to the County Health Department.

The city's polio case was the only disease reported in the city during the week. The other two were in Hermosa Beach. Otherwise, persons in this area were relatively healthy, with a few cases of mumps and tuberculosis, Manhattan Beach declaring a mumps victim, and county territory providing a case of hepatitis.

Man Injured In Collision

John H. Leibold, of Manhattan, Pa., received major injuries Friday night when the car he was driving collided with a dump truck at 190th St. and Western Ave.

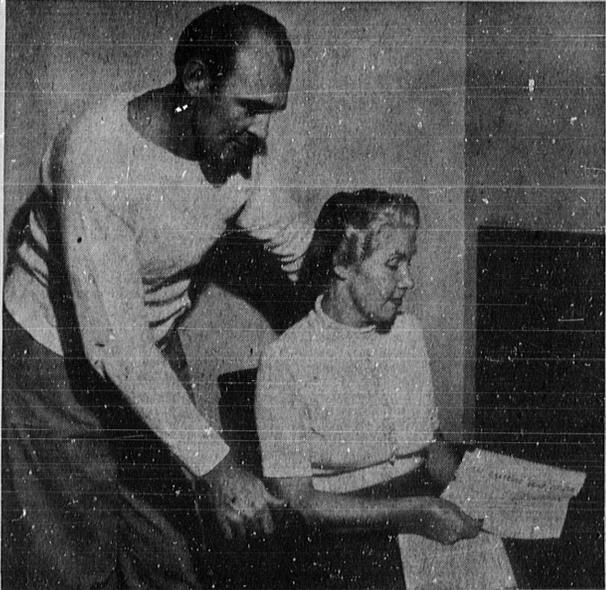
Leibold's automobile was a total loss as an outcome of the accident. Melvin W. Barker, 23, of El Monte, was driver of the truck.

The injured man was rushed to Harbor General Hospital by Wright's Ambulance. Hospital authorities described his condition as "improved" late Saturday afternoon.

2 Youths '13' Admit School Vandalism, Several Burglaries

Two 13-year-old boys, who admitted to vandalizing the Seaside School on Labor Day and confessed they also took part in a number of burglaries in this area, were apprehended last week by Torrance Police and turned over to the juvenile bureau.

They implicated four other teenage boys, who, according to authorities, have been pleading together their stories, which told of burglarizing establishments in the Hollywood Riviera and Seaside areas of Torrance.



RARE BARGAIN . . . Mr. and Mrs. John A. Bodnar, of 18303 Falda Ave., inspect the July 4, 1863, issue of the Vicksburg Daily Citizen which they found in an old book they bought this week. The rare old newspaper is valuable, but the Bodnars paid only a dime for the book.

Local Police Pin Hold-Up On Gardenan

An armed stick up that took place more than a year and a half ago in Torrance was solved Saturday by Torrance Police detectives, while carrying out a routine mission at the Firestone Sheriff's Station.

Robert G. Mercereau, 21, of 1233 W. 168th St., Gardena, admitted participation in the stick up of the Inglewood Farms cash and carry section. Two other men were involved in the stick up also.

The bandits got \$150 in cash in the raid.

Detectives stopped by the Sheriff's office on a routine matter and began checking on Mercereau. He soon confessed to the stick up, saying he and his two accomplices used masks in the armed robbery.

Mercereau was being detained by sheriff's deputies on charges he held up a service station near Avalon Ave. and Main St., recently.

Mercereau said he and his accomplices drove by the cash and carry section and stopped. One of the men stayed with the car, while Mercereau and another companion made the actual attack. Mercereau said he stole a revolver from his father to make the assault.

Police said they are seeking the other two suspects involved in the hold up.

Couple Pay Dime For Rare Paper

Mr. and Mrs. John A. Bodnar bought an old book last week for a dime and got an unexpected bonus—a rare, tattered copy of a Civil War newspaper printed on wallpaper. The couple, who collect old books as a hobby, picked up the book to discover inside a July 4, 1863, copy

of the Vicksburg, Miss., Daily Citizen, printed just before General Ulysses S. Grant took the city in one of the famous battles of the Civil War. It is printed on the back of a sheet of pink-flowered wallpaper.

Checking with library officials, the Bodnars, who live at 18303 Falda Ave., found that their copy of the paper is one of three known in the county, and is quite valuable. They were told that newspapers during the 1860s were not infrequently printed on wallpaper.

Full of History
They hadn't decided what they will do with the newspaper yet, but were interested in the historical aspects of it. According to the paper its editor was one J. M. Swords, and it was issued by Grant's order after Vicksburg's fall.

One Union editor in the Confederate paper is referred to as "a pink-nosed, slab-sided, loud-eating Yankee, who is a lineal descendant of Judas Iscariot." Yet with such a character, this paper cannot cloak the fact that Gen. Robert E. Lee has given Hooker, Marcy & Co. one of the best and soundest whippings on record and that the "galorous union" is now exceedingly weak in the knees.

Another article in the paper notes that Confederate troops were reported near Gettysburg, where one of the great battles of the Civil War was fought.

"We are indebted to Major Gillespie for a steak of Confederate beef," another article reports. "We have tried it, and can assure our friends that if it is rendered necessary, they need have no scruples at eating the meat. It is sweet, savory and tender, and so long as we have a mule left, we are satisfied our soldiers will be content to subsist on it."

The newspaper, the Bodnars said, was in an old copy of Dean Swift's collected works, which they bought from a junk dealer.

Cheap Books Found
Bodnar is in the maintenance department at Douglas Aircraft and he and his wife spend their spare time browsing through old book and junk shops. There, they report, they have picked up many rare old books for as little as a dime, which was the price they paid for the volume containing the paper.

So far, they have gathered about 300 old books which they keep in a spare room. They find most of their books in junk shops, which sell the books after old houses are dismantled. Such shops are often a book collector's dream, they reported.

They have come up with such old volumes as McGuffey's Reader, Anecdotes of Dwight Moody, and essays by leading 19th century literary figures. The oldest book in the collection is a history of the world, published in 1809.

Deputies Seek 3 Boys In Harbor Hills Fire
Sheriff's deputies were seeking three young boys suspected of setting a fire in the Harbor Hills Auditorium, 26607 S. Western Ave., Thursday, which damaged the walls and destroyed two telephone booths.

Bystanders reported seeing the youths near the auditorium at the time of the fire.

Residents Flay Industrial Plan

Proposed rezoning of property at Carson St. and Crenshaw Blvd., was taken under advisement by the Torrance Planning Commission, Wednesday night, while it gave a green light to a commercial area in north Torrance.

After hearing protests from a number of residents

In the area, the Planners decided to study further the proposal of the Dresser Equipment Co., for rezoning of part of the property at Carson and Crenshaw from R3 and C1 to M1. A special meeting on Tuesday will discuss the matter.

If the rezoning is approved, McDonald Brothers, of Culver City, plan to put about 30 industrial plants in the area, with plants ranging from 5000 to 50,000 square feet.

Attractive Property
R. G. Harris, manager of McDonald Brothers, declared that the development would not mean excessive noise and smoke because the plants would not be of that type. Property would be attractively designed and landscaped, he said. Present plans call for one-story buildings on the property, he said, as well as parking and access roads at the rear of the property.

A. L. Elder, of 2325 Carson St., and Joseph A. Landerville, of 1630 Beech St., presented petitions of persons in the neighborhood objecting to the development. Landerville told commissioners that the property would increase traffic and endanger school children at both Torrance High and Nativity Schools.

Commissioner J. A. Beasley said that in talking with nearby residents, he had found them about equally divided on the development.

Chamber Approves
A letter from the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce was read, unanimously approving the industrial tract.

The Grand Construction Co. request for commercial zoning for the 143 feet immediately east of Crenshaw Blvd. between 17th and 181st Sts. was recommended for approval with certain stipulations.

Commissioner Bert Lynn said he had been informed that the firm would use the rear 60 feet of the property for building small shops of various types, with an alley behind. The front 83 feet of the property would be used for parking, he said, with a 20 foot driveway in between the parking lot and the stores.

The commissioners recommended the rezoning, with provision that development follow the above plans, that entrances and exits on Crenshaw be limited to one point, that a two foot masonry wall be built along Crenshaw Blvd., that alleys shall be paved, and that adequate walks be put between the parking area and stores.

Approval Recommended
Also recommended for approval was commercial zoning for a portion of land near Torrance Blvd. and the west city boundary, presented by the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Los Angeles.

The proposal calls for both commercial development of one part of the land, with off-street parking facilities on the remainder of the property. It will also include a proposed new Catholic School.

A letter from Francis Cardinal McIntyre indicated he was willing to grant an easement of 40 feet to the city, to be used as a parking lot. He also offered to build a six foot masonry wall separating the business from the residential property.

Edison Request Ok'd
Also approved was the request of the Southern California Edison Co., for agricultural zoning for property northwest of 182nd and a prolongation of Amie St., to allow for increases in electric services. Edison officials said there would be no addition to existing facilities there, but changes within the present area. The commission stipulated that the frontage be

improved to avoid excessive dust.

The request of Harry J. Early for reclassification of his property, located on Lomita Blvd., in the Meadow Park tract from M2 with oil drilling to M2 without oil drilling, was taken under advisement.

A first hearing was held at the request of Samuel J. Paltin, DO, for a variance and conditional permit to build a medical center at 16586 Crenshaw Blvd., with one letter of opposition aid one in favor.

A committee was appointed to study the request of Dr. Arthur Berke for a variance and conditional permit to remove an existing building and improve the parking lot at 1104 Arlington Ave. The first formal hearing will be on Oct. 5.

Polio Shots May Start Again in October-Kogan

Torrance's polio immunization program for first and second graders—interrupted last year pending a check of the vaccine—probably will be resumed late in October, Dr. Benjamin A. Kogan, local health officer, said Friday.

The immunization program will be picked up where it stopped, he said. In the Torrance Health District, which includes six other cities, only 1625 children received their second shots, while 6762 children did not. All received their first shot.

The new program will cover only those children who were due to receive their second shots last spring, including children from other districts, Dr. Kogan said. Children who have received their first shots, elsewhere will have their records forwarded, he said.

Health officials met with local school nurses and other school officials Thursday in an effort to work out the program locally.

Resumption of the program will depend upon the arrival of polio vaccine here, Dr. Kogan said, with some expected in a definite schedule by schools has not yet been prepared, but should be ready within a short time, he said.

Trucks Still Go Old Way, Rivierans Say

A group of Riviera residents will attend the Council meeting tomorrow night to protest what they claimed was the continued use of narrow streets by construction equipment, in violation of an agreement reached two weeks ago.

Mrs. Herbert Shirley claimed that many trucks were still using the Calle-Mayon-Via los Miradores-Avenida Ateazada route to get to a new tract under development.

Developer Harry Kissel had agreed to urge that subcontractors send their trucks down Pacific Coast Hwy., Catalina Ave. via Monte D'Oro, and Calle de Arboles, which has wider streets and does not go by Riviera School.

Residents have noticed little change in the truck traffic since the meeting, Mrs. Shirley said. The council is due to act on Kissel's proposal for a go-ahead signal on 235 more homes in the tract tomorrow night.



THE NEW LOOK IN TAGS . . . Leavitt Tudor, manager of the Torrance office of the Department of Motor Vehicles, displays the new look in California vehicle license plates which will be issued after the first of next year. The new plates are black on yellow and will carry three letters and three digits.

5 Tracts, 318 Lots Approved

Five tracts, containing 318 lots, were recommended for approval Wednesday night by the Torrance Planning Commission. Included was one tract which has some lots divided between Torrance and Los Angeles.

In a split 5-4 decision, the Planning Commission approved 146-home subdivision northwest of 238th and Western Ave., exempting five lots which are partly in Torrance and partly in Los Angeles.

Presented by John E. Kettler, the tract number is 20829. The Planners recommended denial of permits for these lots until a final determination of their jurisdiction is made.

Biggest of the tracts approved—No. 15570—was presented by the Lesser Enterprises and contained 155 lots. It is located northwest of Calle Mayor and south of tract 15569.

The Sepulveda Investment Corp. proposal for 61 lots, located on Hawthorne and Sepulveda Bldvs., was recommended for approval. Planners stipulated that a six foot fence should be erected along the west boundary of the tract, from Sepulveda Blvd. to the existing tract, and that all wells be fenced.

Also approved was tract 19835, containing 44 lots, and located southwest of Arlington Ave. and North Torrance Elementary School. It was presented by Property Management Corp.

Planners stipulated that a drainage easement should be provided by the school property, that ten feet should be dedicated to the city to widen Ar-

lington Ave., and that turn-around driveways should be put on any lots facing Arlington.

The Liberty Investment Co. proposal for 12 lots northeast of 171st and Ainsworth also got a green light from the Planners, who stipulated that five feet of property should be deeded for widening 171st St. The tract number is 20027.

Sent to committee for study was the Grand Construction Co. plans for 84 lots in tract 20019, northwest of 164th and Arlington Ave.

Planners Get New Drawings For Building

A second set of plans for an addition to the existing central office telephone building at 650 Palms Verdes Blvd. was presented to the Torrance Planning Commission, Wednesday night.

The General Telephone Co. outlined plans for a one-story addition to its present building. The City Council had turned thumbs down on a previous proposal several months ago, after protests from nearby residents, who demanded that all phone facilities be removed. It had been approved by the Planning Commission.

A committee was appointed to study the proposal, with the first formal hearing on Oct. 5.

KIWANIS CLUB TO NOTE 30TH BIRTHDAY TONIGHT

The Torrance Kiwanis Club will celebrate the 30th anniversary of its founding this evening with a gala dinner at which charter members of the group will be honored along with its past presidents and former lieutenant governors of the club's District 14.

Wives of the members will also be special guests at the affair, to be held in the American Legion club-rooms starting at 6:30 p.m.

Dr. Howard Wood, a former past president and district official, will be master of ceremonies.

There are four charter members still in the vicinity, although all may be unable to attend the dinner because of extended vacation trips. They are R. J. Deininger, Dr. R. F. Bishop, C. T. Rippey and C. C. Schultz.

The club presently numbers 68 members.